

Table of Sample Containers and Preservation

Determination	Container	Volume	Preservation	Maximum Holding Time
Alkalinity	P or G	500	Refrigerate	14 d
Ammonia	P or G	500	Analyse ASAP, or acidify to pH <2 with H ₂ SO ₄ and refrigerate	1 month
Bacteria	Sterile Jar	110 or 250	Analyse within 8 h or keep at <4 degrees	24 h
BOD	P or G	1000	Refrigerate	48 h
Carbon (TOC)	G	100	Acidify with HCl, H ₂ SO ₄ or H ₃ PO ₄ to pH < 2	28 d
Chlorophyll	P or G	500	Refrigerate and dark	48 h
			Filter and freeze residue	1 month
Chloride	P or G	50	None required	1 month
COD	P or G	100	Acidify with H ₂ SO ₄ to pH <2, refrigerate	28 d
Colour	P or G	500	Refrigerate	48 h
Conductivity	P or G	500	Refrigerate	1 month
Chromium VI	P or G	1000	Refrigerate, rinse bottle with 1:1 HNO ₃	24 h
Cyanide	P or G	1000	Add NaOH to pH >12, refrigerate in dark	14 d
Dissolved Oxygen	P or G	300	None, read in field	0.25 h
	G		Fix oxygen in the field and store in dark	8 h
Fluoride	P	100	None required	1 month
Hardness	P or G	100	Acidify with HNO ₃ or H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2	6 months
Metals	P or G	1000	For dissolved metals, filter, acidify to pH <2 with HNO ₃	6 months
Nitrate	P or G	100	Analyse ASAP, refrigerate	48h
Nitrite	P or G	200	Analyse ASAP, refrigerate	48h
Oil and Grease	G, wide mouthed	250	Add HCl to pH <2, refrigerate	28 d
pH	P or G	50	Analyse immediately	0.25 h
Solids	P or G	500	Refrigerate	1 week
Sulphate	P or G	100	Refrigerate	1 month
Turbidity	P or G	100	Analyse ASAP, keep in dark & refrigerate	48 h

Adapted from Standard Methods (21st edition), APHA, 2005.